

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJ: APRIL 25 DRC MEETING: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: A. USNATO 2057; B. USNATO 2291; C. STATE 048404

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 25 MEETING, DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) ASKED INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) TO DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF 1975 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE AT MAY DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, ACCEPTED MINOR REVISIONS TO SECTIONS ON RESOURCES AND PURPOSE OF NATO FORCES WHICH ENABLED NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK TO REMOVE RESERVATIONS, PLACED NETHERLANDS-PROPOSED ADDITION TO SECTION ON ALLIANCE COOPERATION IN A FOOTNOTE, AND DISCUSSED POSSIBLE DATES FOR DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION (DPC PERM REPS) CONSIDERATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS ASKED EACH NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO FURNISH IS WITH LETTER (INFO COPIES TO OTHER ALLIES) OUTLINING MANNER IN WHICH NATIONAL CAPITALS INTEND TO USE 1975 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IN NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING.
END SUMMARY.
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1. PUBLIC DISSEMINATION. IN INTORDUCTORY REMARKS TO APRIL 25 DRC MEETING, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS SAID IS WOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY PREPARING UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF 1975 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT OR PORTIONS THEREOF FOR PUBLIC RELEASE DURING

MAY DPC MINISTERIAL. US REP (BGEN DOWMAN) RECOMMENDED THAT IS USE LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT (REF A, PARAS 3-8) AS BASIS FOR UNCLASSIFIED VERSION WHICH DEFENSE MINISTERS COULD THEN RELEASE AS ANNEX TO DPC COMMUNIQUE (REF C). UK (MACDONALD), FRG (GEN SCHUNEMANN), AND CANADIAN (COL SHEFFIELD) REPS AGREED BUT SAID IS SHOULD EXPAND ON LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT'S COVERAGE OF STRATEGY BY DRAWING FROM DRAFT GUIDANCE PARAS 17 AND 18 REF A). NATO PRESS SERVICE REP (DE VRIES) RECOMMENDED RELEASE OF UNCLASSIFIED VERSION DURING TRADITIONAL DPC WRAP-UP PRESS CONFERENCE AS WELL AS IN ANNEX TO COMMUNIQUE. DRC AGREED, SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE BY MINISTERS, AND ASKED IS TO PROVIDE DRAFT FOR EARLY DRC CONSIDERATION. DANISH REP (ROSENTHAL) CITED PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS TO PUBLIC RELEASE OF LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT AND SAID HE WOULD "GO ALONG WITH DRC DECISION ON REFERENCE BASIS."

2. REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES (PARA 19(B)). NETHERLANDS REP, CITING NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM HAGUE, OFFERED TO DELETE FOOTNOTE ON THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS (REF B, PARA 2) IF DRC WOULD SUBSTITUTE THE WORD "SUPPORT" FOR "AUGMENT" IN PARA 19(B). HE SAID HAGUE BELIEVED EXISTING LANGUAGE ERRONEOUSLY IMPLIED THAT NATO COULD USE THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHOUT CROSSING NUCLEAR THRESHOLD; DRC ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSED CHANGE.

3. ALLIANCE COOPERATION (PARA 44). NETHERLANDS REP, WITH SUPPORT FROM CANADIAN AND US REPS, ATTEMPTED TO ADD FOLLOWING TO DRAFT PARAGRAPH 44: BEING QUOTE: "THESE POSSIBILITIES HAVE TO BE PURSUED WITH INCREASED VIGOUR, AS INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS IN THESE FIELDS WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY FOR THE SMALL COUNTRIES, TO MAINTAIN THE FORCES OUTLINED IN THEIR NATIONAL PLANS TO THEIR FULL EXTENT AND THUS JEOPARDIZE THE CONTINUATION OF ALL THE TASKS ASSUMED BY THE ALLIES. END QUOTE. CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS URGED REPS NOT TO ACCEPT NETHERLANDS REP'S PROPOSAL, SAYING IT GAVE AN "ADVANCE ALIBI" TO REDUCE FORCES. BELGIAN REP (COL TAYMANS) STRONGLY OPPOSED CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSAL; DRC AGREED TO PLACE IT IN A FOOTNOTE WITH ATTRIBUTION TO NETHERLANDS AND CANADA.

4. RESOURCES (PARA 39). NETHERLANDS AND DANISH REPS WITHDREW RESERVATIONS ON PARA 39 AFTER DRC AGREED TO CHANGE LANGUAGE CALLING FOR ANNUAL REAL INCREASES IN NATIONAL DEFENSE BUDGETS FROM "WITHIN THE LIMIT OF REAL INCREASES ON THE ORDER OF 3-5 PERCENT PER YEAR" (REF B, PARA 6) TO "ANNUAL INCREASES IN REAL TERMS OF UP TO 5 PERCENT." CANADIAN REP REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIS ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPHS 39-40 (REF B, PARA 6).

5. DPC PERM REPS CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT GUIDANCE. DRC DISCUSSED AT LENGTH VARIOUS DATES FOR DPC PERM REPS TO CONSIDER GUIDANCE DOCUMENT RANGING FROM MAY 2 TO MAY 12. ABSENCE OF AMBASSADORS

AND OTHER FACTORS PRECLUDED ALL BUT MAY 2; CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS AGREED TO RAISE QUESTION WITH SYG LUNS WHO HUMPHREYS SAID WAS NOT REPEAT NOT FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD MAY 2.

6. CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS ASKED REPS TO PROVIDE IS WITH LETTER (INFO COPIES TO OTHER DELEGATIONS) WHICH EXPLAINS IN SPECIFIC TERMS HOW NATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING ESTABLISHMENTS INTEND TO USE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT. US REP ASKED WHAT LETTER SHOULD CONTAIN BESIDES ASSURANCE THAT NATIONS WILL PROVIDE NATO WITH RESOURCE PLANNING DATA (REF B, PARA 10). HUMPHREYS RESPONDED THAT UK, FOR EXAMPLE, PLANS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT TO EACH SERVICE CHIEF WHICH DEMONSTRATES WIDESPREAD AND MANINGFUL DISSEMINATION IN UK DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN LETTER. BRUCE

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